



DOMESTIC MARKETS

NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

P O. Box 1972, G.P.O.
New York, New York 10001
Editorial (212)279-5950
Customer Service (212)564-8529

CORPORATISTS PUSH

Jan. 30 (IPS) -- The now hegemonic liberal-corporatist political faction associated with the wing of the Democratic Party grouped around Averill Harriman this week began an all-out push for a slave labor jobs program to "put the unemployed to work."

These layers, represented by up-front political spokesmen such as Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) are attempting to counterpose their fascist program to the more traditional conservative austerity proposals contained in President Ford's State of the Union message. More importantly, much, if not all, of the organizing for the Harriman "program" is being directly counterposed against the Labor Party's International Development Bank and Emergency Employment Bank legislation which is rapidly gaining support throughout the working class. Highly placed government officials yesterday told IPS that Sen. Humphrey and Rep. Clement Zablocki (D-Wisc.), two of the principal supporters of the full employment legislation, have deployed their staffers to lobby against the EEA and IDB.

Acting as a spokesman for the corporatist faction, in the New York Times the editors this week laid out the policy line for a "Jobs policy." Noting that upwards of 2.5 million workers will exhaust their unemployment insurance compensation during the first quarter of 1976, a Jan. 29 Times editorial pushes for adoption of a newly revised version of Sen. Humphrey's fascist Full Employment Bill. If the bill "offers genuine hope for putting the unemployed back to work without reigniting the inflationary fires" (i.e. creates a large slave-labor apparatus at minimal wages) the Times editors write "it will represent an invaluable contribution toward meeting the country's most pressing domestic need."

The Times' call for slave labor came as the Democratic majority in Congress gave signs of being able to consolidate its strength vis-a-vis President Ford and successfully move on aspects of its corporatist employment policies. The Democrats had not been capable of doing this last year as Ford successfully vetoed every "jobs" bill the Congress passed.

On Jan. 28, the House Labor Committee approved, 26-6, a public service employment authorization bill which would nearly double the number of these low-paying, union-busting jobs to 600,000 and extend the program to September 1977. Ford had proposed to maintain the program at its present level this year, and then phase it out. A veto and subsequent override attempt is expected by mid-February.

Then, on Jan. 29, the House passed, 321 to 80, a \$6.2 billion public works bill which had previously cleared the Senate by voice vote in December. The size of the vote, indicating that a promised Ford veto could easily be overridden, attested to the gathering momentum in Congress for slave-labor type measures.

Sen. Humphrey and his allies are now mobilizing to achieve a more substantial victory. They intend to ram a corporatist Full Employment Bill through Congress by early spring.

Sen. Humphrey's aide, Jerry Jasinowski, told IPS Jan. 30 that the newly revised bill would deal with the interfacing of unemployment programs and jobs programs -- i.e. forcing the unemployed to work. At a conference on "National Issues" organized by the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC) today, Jasinowski indicated that the major thrust of the new bill would be to use funds presently going for unemployment compensation and welfare payments to create slave-labor jobs, especially to put youth to work. This is essentially the same program proffered several times previously by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns.

Though Humphrey's bill apparently will legislate the minimum wage (\$2 per hour⁰ as a "salary floor" (ceiling); Burns, who doesn't have to face the electorate, has been speaking in terms of \$50 per week per job. Humphrey, however, would have no qualms about accepting Burns' proposal if the political situation allowed him to.

The corporatists strategy is to starve the unemployed until they are willing to work at the newly created slave labor jobs. During the first quarter of 1976 the large number of workers who were thrown onto the unemployment insurance rolls during the Fall, 1974 collapse of production will have exhausted their final 65 weeks of benefits. A thorough IPS survey Jan. 30 of every relevant Congressional and Executive office indicated that there will be no further "emergency" extension of the time period for receiving unemployment.

Thus, as a staff worker for Sen. Javits (R-NY) put it, the mass of workers going off unemployment will either have to go on welfare, a prospect which is being made increasingly difficult by Federal regulations, or accept slave labor jobs. An aide to the Department of Labor's head of manpower programs told IPS Jan. 30 that these people "will just have to lower their sights" and accept lower paying jobs.

The agent leadership of the AFL-CIO and the UAW are planning to mobilize whatever remains of their demoralized bureaucracy in support of the Humphrey bill. According to AFL-CIO, which is now on public record as opposing further extension of unemployment insurance since it takes away funds from slave-labor jobs, 65 labor lobbyists will infest Capitol Hill; Central Labor Councils will be told to support the bill. The bill will be the central agenda item at an AFL-CIO executive council meeting in Florida in mid-February, as it was at the United Auto Worker-International Association of Machinists legislative conference January 25-26 in Washington, D.C.

Another fascist Humphrey bill, the Initiatives Committee for National Economic Planning (ICNEP) planning bill, will also be coming up for hearings in early February. The bill is supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which lobbied heavily for the public works bill this week, the UAW, etc., and was the subject of a major article in the Sunday New York Times magazine section last week.

COMPROMISE ON FORD BUDGET IN THE OFFING

On Jan. 27 and Jan. 28 the House and Senate respectively overrode a Ford veto of a \$45 billion HEW appropriation bill by well over the